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Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 10 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General (A/71/875-S/2017/321), I have the honour to state the following:

Greece rejects in their entirety the Turkish allegations contained in the above-mentioned letter regarding the definition of the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean as unsubstantiated, unfounded and devoid of any legal basis.

Such allegations totally disregard the ipso facto and ab initio sovereign rights of other States, including Greece, in the maritime area of the Eastern Mediterranean west of meridian 32°16′18″E. These rights derive from the international law of the sea. It has to be recalled that, under both customary and conventional international law, Greek islands, including those in the said area, are entitled to maritime zones of their own (continental shelf and/or exclusive economic zone), as any other land territory.

In this respect, Greece wishes to reiterate its position on these issues as set out on numerous occasions, including in the letters dated 23 May and 8 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Greece addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/900-S/2016/474 and A/71/675-S/2016/1043, respectively) and note verbale No. 974 of the Permanent Mission of Greece, dated 8 May 2012.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 73 (a), and of the Security Council, and published in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(*Signed*) Catherine **Boura**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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